Tomskaya Nyedyelya No.30 (485) July 26, 2001

1) The Oblast is Rich With Resources

"The rough potential value of mineral resources in the Tomsk Oblast is valued at more than one trillion US dollars," declared director of the Tomsk Mining Company Mikhail Parovinchak.

2) The Death Rate in Prisons is Decreasing

Since the first of the year, 22 prisoners have died. For the same period last year, 25 prisoners had died. There have been years when the prison system in the Tomsk Oblast saw as many as 200 die.

3) Stops Are "Closer to the Goal"

The public transportation system of Tomsk is developing to accommodate more bus stops.

4) Holes in the Roads – Holes in the Budget

A commentary by the Director of the City Department of Roads and Public Works, Viktor Galaya.

5) Found: 150 Million Rubles

Although the report on the execution of the municipal budget for 2000 has been accepted and has become history, a working group of the Budget and Finance Committee of the City Duma announced a full line of comments for correction on the work of the city administration.

6) Expenses for Tomsk Officials Decreased

The Deputies of the Tomsk City Duma have adopted a resolution to decrease expenses in the 2001 city budget for city administration and reallocate those funds, almost 5.5 million rubles, to social programs.

7) Professionals Will Combat Corruption

On Friday, July 20, the Tomsk City Duma established the Standing Deputy Commission on the War on Crime. The intent of this commission is to focus the Duma's efforts to combat crime.

8) Chronicle of Events

a) On the Roads

During the past week, from July 17 through 23 inclusive, there were 76 traffic accidents. One person died and 16 were injured.

b) Criminal

In the period from July 15 through 21, there were 277 registered criminal acts, of which 164 took place in Tomsk.

c) Bomb in Café

A homemade explosive device was found in the café "U Dramateatra" on July 19 at 5:40 PM.

9) Regions and City: People Are Dying On the Roads

A chronicle of the week from July 18 through 23, describing the deaths of people on the area roadways.

10) The Sky Does Not Forgive Mistakes

a) Poor Record

Over the past 30 years, more than 1000 Tu-154 aircraft have been built. Roughly 50 have crashed. The worst air tragedy associated with the Tu-154 took place July 10, 1985 in Uzbekistan near Uchkuduka. Two hundred people died. In 1995 near Khabarovsk, a Tu-154 went into a spin and crashed. All passengers and crew – 138 people – died.

b) The Copilot is No Worse Than the Pilot

The AN-24 was originally designed to fly 30 years and 2500 flight hours. Our planes have already flown 40 to 45 thousand flight hours. Pilots can only fly until age 60 at which time most become copilots.

c) "Russian Standards are Stricter than Western Standards"

Letter from A. Ivanov, Deputy General Director of "Tomsk-Avia" defending Russian aviation standards.

d) "Unflyable" City of Irkutsk

The skies over Irkutsk are known by pilots to be unfriendly. This is not without basis. An article describing the air disasters over and around Irkutsk.

11) How Gagarin Outshone the 25th Plant

Article by V. Smirnov, Director of the Analytical Laboratory of the Chemical Metallurgical Plant describing through his eyes the events of the 1960s and 1970s surrounding the plant.